

Whereas the United States, United Nations, and other organizations and individuals have strongly condemned the National Assembly vote as a blow to the democratic development of Cambodia;

Whereas international donors acknowledged during a consultative group meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, last month that accountability and transparency are vital to the country's economic and social development;

Whereas the National Assembly vote underscores the lack of commitment of Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly President Norodom Ranariddh to democracy, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law in Cambodia; and

Whereas President George W. Bush issued a proclamation on January 12, 2004, that entry into the United States should be denied to former and current corrupt public officials and their families: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the Government of Cambodia to immediately and unconditionally release Cheam Channy;

(2) calls upon the Cambodian National Assembly to reverse its recent action to strip the immunity of opposition parliamentarians Sam Rainsy, Cheam Channy, and Chea Poch;

(3) urges the Secretary of State, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, international financial institutions, and democracies around the world to continue to publicly and forcefully condemn the Cambodian National Assembly vote;

(4) urges international donors to consider imposing appropriate sanctions against the National Assembly and the Government of Cambodia unless and until it reverses its recent action;

(5) calls upon the Secretary of State to impose visa restrictions on members of the Cambodian National Assembly and their families who voted to strip the immunity of Sam Rainsy, Cheam Channy, and Chea Pok, consistent with the President's Proclamation of January 12, 2004, regarding the denial of visas to corrupt public officials and their families; and

(6) calls upon Prime Minister Hun Sen and Cambodian National Assembly President Norodom Ranariddh to cease and desist their efforts to undermine democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 66—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO ENSURE A DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND FAIR PROCESS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2005

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 66

Whereas on August 31, 1991, the Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas the Kyrgyz Republic has been ruled by a single President since gaining independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union;

Whereas President Askar Akaev's initial years of power were marked by numerous democratic reforms, including the establishment of independent media and opposition

party representation in a bi-cameral parliament;

Whereas in recent years, these democratic reforms have been scaled back or eliminated;

Whereas today in the Kyrgyz Republic, virtually all major television outlets are controlled or influenced by the President's family or the state;

Whereas the political system of the Kyrgyz Republic has been characterized by the Department of State as marred by "serious irregularities" and its human rights record has been described by the Department of State as "poor";

Whereas in 2002, Government forces shot 4 opposition demonstrators in the southern Aksy region;

Whereas in 2003, President Akaev called for a referendum, with little notice, on a group of Constitutional amendments, leaving both voters and the opposition unprepared to effectively participate in the vote;

Whereas the 2003 referendum vote on the Constitutional amendments was not transparent and contained numerous instances of fraud;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair democratic election requires a period of political campaigning in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, and detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, or the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry;

Whereas unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis is fundamental to a genuinely free and fair democratic election;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that all eligible citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote, and the right to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote, free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion;

Whereas the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, as a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections, including the provisions of the Copenhagen Document;

Whereas reports indicate that authorities within the Kyrgyz government have stepped up repressive activities ahead of the parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27, 2005, including unfairly excluding opposition candidates from running for office, launching new restrictions on freedom of assembly, harassing opposition supporters and civil society activists, publicly warning against a "Ukraine scenario", and attempting to equate political opposition with subversion; and

Whereas the parliamentary elections scheduled for February 27, 2005, will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the commitment of the Kyrgyz authorities to implementing democratic reforms and building a society based on free elections and the rule of law:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic since the restoration of independence in 1991;

(2) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Kyrgyz people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in the Kyrgyz Republic;

(3) urges the Kyrgyz Republic to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe commitments on democratic elections; and

(4) urges the Kyrgyz authorities to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the 2005 parliamentary elections;

(B) the right to vote for all eligible citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic;

(C) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis; and

(D) the right of opposition parties and candidates to assemble freely, campaign openly, and contest the upcoming elections on an equal basis as all other parties, including the party currently in control of the Parliament.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE GROUP OF 8 NATIONS SHOULD BE CONDITIONED ON THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTING AND ADHERING TO THE NORMS AND STANDARDS OF DEMOCRACY

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 14

Whereas the countries that comprise the Group of 7 nations are pluralistic societies with democratic political institutions and practices, committed to the observance of universally recognized standards of human rights, respect for individual liberties, and democratic principles;

Whereas in 1991 and subsequent years, the leaders of the Group of 7 nations, heads of the governments of the major free market economies of the world who meet annually in a summit meeting, invited then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin to a post-summit dialogue;

Whereas in 1998, the leaders of the Group of 7 nations formally invited President Boris Yeltsin of Russia to participate in an annual gathering that subsequently was known as the Group of 8 nations, although the Group of 7 nations have continued to hold informal summit meetings and ministerial meetings that do not include the Russian Federation;

Whereas the invitation to President Yeltsin to participate in the annual summits was in recognition of his commitment to democratization and economic liberalization, despite the fact that the Russian economy remained weak and the commitment of the Russian Government to democratic principles was uncertain;

Whereas under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Government has attempted to control the activities of independent media enterprises, nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and other pluralistic elements of Russian society in an attempt to mute criticism of the government;

Whereas under the leadership of President Putin, the Russian Government has suppressed the activities of independent journalists, international observers, and human